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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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SUBJECT: "Wartime Cotton Research and the Peacetime Consumer"...Information from the Agricultural Research Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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Have you ever taken out your awnings early in the summer, only to find they've rotted to pieces while they were in storage?

If it's ever happened to you, you know what a blow it can be. But it needn't necessarily happen so fast after the war...when we can get new awnings or other canvas and duck household furnishings. Because the workers at the United States Department of Agriculture's Southern Regional Research Laboratory have developed a rotproofing process for cotton goods. It's more effective than any other known rotproofing treatment. Cloth samples treated by this new process hold more than 80 percent of their original strength after having been buried for a whole year in damp, warm soil rich with rot-causing organisms. Untreated goods buried in the same soil for only a week fell apart.

Another development for cotton goods found at the laboratory could easily result in fewer home accidents caused by fire. It's a flame-proofing treatment on cotton fabrics.

Processors of cotton goods have used effective flame-proofing treatments for a number of years. But these treatments usually make the fabric too stiff or they wash out too readily for them to be used in a fabric in the home. The new process lasts through many washings...and unless you know it's been done, you can hardly tell the fabric has been processed. That's why it'll make flame-proofing outer garments and other home fabrics more practicable.

These two processes were developed to meet wartime needs. But they both can easily be carried over into our post-war world to make our peacetime living better.

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